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CALDER, ROBERT JAMES -- Born in Baltimore, Maryland, July 17, 1810, a son of James H. and Jane E. (Caldwell) Calder. Mr. James H. Calder died when Robert was a child and he was reared by his mother in the home of her father, James P. Caldwell. Mr. Caldwell, then a widower, Mrs. Calder and Robert J. Calder came to Texas in 1832 and settled in what is now Brazoria County. In Headright Certificate No. 57 for a league and labor of land issued to Captain Calder February 1, 1838 by the Brazoria County Board of Land Commissioners it is simply stated that he arrived in Texas prior to May 2, 1835.

On June 26, 1832, Mr. James H. Caldwell settled in what is now Brazoria County. On June 28 of that year Mr. Caldwell was Adjutant of Captain John Austin's Company in the Battle of Velasco, but Mr. Calder arrived on the scene too late to participate in the affray.

In 1835 eighteen young men of Brazoria Municipality organized themselves into a company, the command of which was offered to Dr. Branch T. Archer, who refused, and then to James W. Fannin, who accepted. John York was elected First Lieutenant and Calder Second Lieutenant. On the 28th of October, 1835, Fannin's Company with a portion of Captain Robert M. Coleman's Company, was detailed to select a site for the encampment of the whole army. There were one hundred and five men in the whole detachment, rank and file. They moved and halted before the Mission of Concepcion just before sunset without dismounting. The force encamped in a horseshoe bend below San Antonio, Lieutenant Calder being placed as a long sentinel on top of the mission. The next morning the battle of Concepcion was fought. When

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Fannin was appointed recruiting officer, Mr. Calder accompanied him and consequently did not participate in the Storming and Capture of Bexar, December 5 to 10.

On December 7, 1835, Mr. Calder was appointed Third Lieutenant of Artillery by the General Council of the Provisional Government.

Mr. Calder reenlisted in the army March 1, 1836, and on March 6th he arrived at Gonzales. There on the 12th he was elected Captain of a company of volunteers, most of whom resided in what are now Brazoria, Fort Bend, and Matagorda Counties. The organization became Company K, First Regiment of Texas Volunteers, and was commanded by Captain Calder at San Jacinto. On June 21, 1838 he was issued Donation Certificate No. 361 for having participated in the battle. On December 21, 1837, he received Bounty Certificate No. 1225 for 640 acres of land for having served in the army from March 1 to October 23, 1836.

On April 23, 1836, Benjamin C. Franklin was detailed to carry dispatches from the battlefield to President David G. Burnet in Galveston announcing the victory won by the Texas Army, and Captain Calder accompanied him in an unofficial capacity.

In February 1837, Captain Calder was elected the first sheriff of Brazoria County, holding that office for six years. In 1838 he arrested the notorious forger Monroe Edwards and placed him in jail at Brazoria. Before the end of that year, Captain Calder while still sheriff, was elected Mayor of Brazoria. He was elected Chief Justice of Brazoria County on December 16, 1844, and again on July 13, 1846, from which position he resigned during the latter part of the year to

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remove to Richmond, Fort Bend County. In 1859 he was elected Mayor of the city of Richmond. From July 1866 to April 1869, he served as Chief Justice of Fort Bend County. Retiring from public life, he practiced law at Richmond in partnership with Major W. L. Davidson.

Captain Calder was elected one of the vice presidents of the Texas Historical Society at its organization at Houston, May 23, 1870.

On August 25, 1881, Captain Calder presided at the unveiling of a monument at Galveston that was later erected on the San Jacinto Battlefield dedicated to the memory of the nine Texans who were killed or mortally wounded there on April 20 and 21, 1836. An extended account of the Battle of San Jacinto written by Captain Calder was published in the Texas Almanac of 1861.

Captain Calder and Miss Mary Douglass, daughter of Major Samuel C. Douglass, were married January 3, 1837, by Judge Benjamin C. Franklin. Captain Calder died August 28, 1885, and was buried under the auspices of Richmond Masonic Lodge No. 72, the Reverend Hotchkiss preaching the funeral services. Mrs. Calder, born in Georgia, November 15, 1815, died at the home of her daughter Mrs. Anne M. Williams in Galveston November 10, 1892. Her remains were placed beside those of her husband in Morton Cemetery at Richmond. In 1929 the State of Texas erected a joint monument at their graves.

Children of Captain and Mrs. Calder were (1) Robert, (2) Jane Eliza, (3) Anne Maria, (4) Samuel Douglass, (5) James P., and (6) Zemula Calder, all of whom are deceased.

(1) Robert Calder was never married. He was killed while serving

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in the Confederate Army during the war between the States.

(2) Jane Eliza Calder was married to Colonel W. D. Davidson. There were no children born of this marriage.

(3) Anne Maria Calder was married to Captain J. C. Williams in January, 1869, at Richmond, Texas. Their children were (a) Mary Ellen, (b) Harriet Evelyn, (c) Mary Douglas, (d) Lola, (e) Dora, deceased.

(a) Mary Ellen Williams was married to Dr. W. R. Mercer at Galveston in February, 1898. Dr. Mercer died in 1816. Mrs. Mercer resides at 1009 Peden Street, Houston.

(b) Harriet Evelyn Williams was married to E. M. Womack, December 15, 1902. Mr. Womack died in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1931. Mrs. Womack lives at 1816 Matamoras Street, Houston.

(c) Mary Douglass Williams married John D. Kelley June 20, 1900. Mr. Kelley died in Galveston August 7, 1924. Mrs. Kelley resides at 1230 West Pierce Avenue, Houston.

(d) Lola Williams married E. R. Ramsey August 1, 1910. They reside at 2609 Smith Street, Houston.

(4) Samuel Douglass Calder was married to Loretta Lamar, daughter of President and Mrs. M. B. Lamar. Their children were (a) Henrietta Lamar Calder, (b) Robert James Calder, (c) Carolyn B. Calder, (d) Loretta Calder, and (e) Elizabeth Calder.

(a) Henrietta Lamar Calder married Rev. E. H. J. Andrews, deceased. Mrs. Andrews resides in League City.

(b) Robert James Calder married Mrs. Willeen Groce Billingsly and

they now reside in Galveston.

(c) Carolyn B. Calder married Calvin Norris Blake on November 20, 1920, and now resides at 1102 Bartlett Street, Houston.

(d) Loretta Calder married Mallory Gordon, now deceased, and resides in San Antonio.

(e) Miss Elizabeth Calder, resides at 1102 Bartlett Street, Houston.

(5) James P. Calder was married to Sallie Weston. Their children were (a) Mary Walker Calder, who married Benjamin Botts Rice June 5, 1900, and (b) Louise Calder, who married Claude Murchison in April, 1898. Mrs. Murchison resides in San Diego, California,

MESSRS. MITCHELL, NOLAN & CALDER

The individual members of the firm are Captain J. C. MITCHELL, Colonel W. G. NOLAN and Judge R. J. CALDER. Captain MITCHELL has lived here nearly all his life; Colonel NOLAN, we think, for thirty years; and Judge CALDER has been in this part of Texas since 1832, and in Richmond since 1846. He is a regular old Trojan, a veteran of the first-class of the Texas Revolution--a Pater Patriae, or Father of his Country. Yet he is as modest of his laurels as a blush-maiden of 'sweet sixteen' is of her charms. It is a delight to greet such spirits occasionally. They stand out like beacon lights above the sordid selfishness of the mass of mankind, and impart an air of real refreshment to the souls of other persons with whom they come in contact. We should wish for many more such men as Judge CALDER in Texas; aye!, the world over. He commanded a company in Colonel EDWARD BURLESON'S regiment at the battle of San Jacinto. He was one of three, the other two being CHARLES K. REESE and C. P. REESE who after the battle was searching for one of their men known to have been shot, BENJ R. BRIGHAM, and whose dead body they found; but while hunting for his remains among the debris of the battle, they also discovered General Santa Anna's military chest, containing some \$13,000 in silver, which they promptly reported to their superior officers, and which was duly turned over to the Government as a portion of the spoils of war captured by General Houston's little army.

Judge CALDER, in company with Judge BENJ. C. FRANKLIN, who died a few years ago in Galveston, with one other soldier, whose name we

didn't get, constituted the courtiers who first carried the news of the victory of San Jacinto to Galveston. "But," added the Judge in a humorous vein, while relating these little incidents, "I wasn't one of the several thousands who captured in person General Santa Anna, the Napoleon of the West". We couldn't help laughing at the Judge's remark, and we think it about time that some of those veterans who "took Santa Anna" either die off or quit talking about it. They're two numerous rather for any one's credulity.

But in this connection we do desire to speak of a Texas veteran, a real hero of no mean proportions, who figured on another field.

While at the office of Messrs. MITCHELL, NOLAN & CALDER, we heard several chapters read of what will probably be entitled the "Life and Adventures of Major Benj. F. Hughes--Afloat and Ashore, with Sketches of the Early History of Texas." This gentlemen, Major HUGHES is cousin to Captain MITCHELL, and when but a mere stripling, served as a private soldier in the Texas army of the revolution. He was captured with Colonel Fannin, and would have been shot under the orders of Santa Anna, with the balance of that ill-fated command, some 330 prisoners, but for the seemingly Providential interference of Senora Urrea, the noble wife.

(fragmentary clipping)